

THE FREE LANCE published tri-weekly as an independent newspaper, is located at 205 Commerce for William St., Fredericksburg, Virginia, and is issued on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings by **The Free Lance Printing Company of Fredericksburg, Virginia.**

Its subscription terms are \$1.50 per year, in advance, for 12 months, 75 cents for 6 months, and 40 cents for 3 months.

Its advertising rates are for one square of ten lines or less, first insertion, 50 cents, and 25 cents for each additional insertion. 100 lines for one month, 10 cents per line. A special rate for home editions is 10 cents per line. The rate is reduced to 5 cents for long term contracts. Yearly advertisers discontinuing during the year will be charged in advance at transient rates.

All letters recommending candidates for office must be paid for to insure their publication.

Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations will be invariably charged for as advertising matter.

All communications of every character should be addressed to "THE FREE LANCE," Fredericksburg, Va.

Weather forecast for Fredericksburg and vicinity.

Clearing Saturday morning—high southeast winds.

Rhode Island voted for a State ticket on Wednesday, the Democrats making large gains, but the Republicans electing their candidates.

Former Presidents Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison favor peace by arbitration in letters written to the United Society of Christian Endeavor in Boston.

The anti-Akwon faction at the local Republicans in Alexandria have already placed candidates in nomination for the city offices of Alexandria to be chosen this spring.

The Grand Army men were ignored and not invited to Arlington on Thursday to take part in the interment of the American soldiers, who were killed in Cuba during the Spanish war and whose bodies last brought home, were interred at Arlington on Thursday.

The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, committee is hearing further disclosures as to bribery. One Byrne now is named. Representative Wilson, after first refusing to divulge the name, finally admitted Byrne offered him \$5,000 to change his vote to Quay. Boyd denies statement of Youngson that he made improper overtures to the latter. A pretty kettle of fish.

Cardinal Gibbons applied to the War Department for permission to have Catholic services at the interment of the bodies of the soldiers who died in Cuba and Porto Rico at Arlington on Thursday last. The department had already arranged to have the service conducted by Captain Freeland, an Episcopalian, but acceded to Cardinal Gibbons' request so far as the Catholic dead was concerned.

A mass-meeting, under the auspices of the Anti-Imperialist League in Tremont Temple Boston on Tuesday night was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience. The principal speaker was ex-Secretary of the Treasury, Boutwell. He said among other things:

"The prosecution of the war against the Philippines is an offense to every producer and every laborer and every taxpayer in America. Our demand must be this: Withdraw the troops from the Philippines. Leave the islands to the inhabitants. Let them set up a government for themselves."

"It is the purpose of the President to seize and hold the Philippines by the strong hand of conquest, to subjugate or exterminate the natives, and there are indications that the two events may coincide in respect to time. The Philippines might plead for the opportunity to exercise the right of self-government—self government, nothing more. If the President would accept the teachings for the Declaration of Independence we should be at peace. The seizure of the Philippine Islands by us is English policy. In accepting England's policy in the East, we accept her sovereignty."

Resolutions strongly condemning the policy of the administration were adopted.

One hundred of the religious women of Chantanooga Wednesday night sang hymns in the city council chamber during a meeting of the aldermanic board. The scene was unique and inspiring. During a recent revival meeting conducted by Rev. "Sam" Jones the council, through the influence of the religious element, passed an ordinance requiring the saloons to close at 10 p. m. and not to open before 5 a. m. Recently there has been great pressure upon the aldermen to amend the ordinance and to fix the closing hour at midnight. It was reported that night, while the council meeting was in progress a large number of women filed into the council chamber. One of them was given the privilege of the floor and made an appeal that the ordinance be not amended. After her address the further "indulgence" of the council was asked, and, led by Mrs. L. B. Wilson, the ladies sang "Stand Up for Jesus," "Rock of Ages," and other songs. The aldermen were impressed. No motion to amend the ordinance was made.

It seems to The Free Lance that occasionally a little singing in our Council chamber would, at least, be as inspiring as some of the speeches of some notional

This week has brought out some interesting developments touching the next Presidency. Heretofore McKinley, it was supposed, would have a walk over for the nomination and in the election. But the article from the Washington, D. C. Star, published elsewhere, shows that this will not be so. And even if nominated, McKinley has trouble ahead, even in Ohio. On last Monday McKisson was defeated for reelection as mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, by a combination of Mark Hanna with the Democrats, and now if the McKisson men do as they swear they will do, the effect of that election will be felt for years to come in Ohio. A number of very prominent McKisson men lay the defeat of the mayor at the door of Hanna. Consequently they are very bitter. They swear they will never vote for a Hanna Republican as long as they continue to live.

The breach between the factions of the Republican party, over the McKissonites, has been made perpetual by the result of this election. The McKissonites apply all kinds of sulphur-tinged names to Mark Hanna. The result of the election brightens the chances of Democratic success for the Governorship. "Anything to down Hanna," is now the cry of the McKisson forces.

On Tuesday there was an election in Chicago, Illinois, and in Lincoln, Nebraska. In Chicago Altgeld, for mayor, who endorsed Bryan and the 1896 platform, was defeated, receiving only 45,000 votes in a vote of nearly 300,000. Mayor Harrison's victory, it is claimed already, makes him the Democratic boss of Cook county, and presumably of the State, for the Chicago delegation to the State conventions dictates the policy of the Democratic party in Illinois. This is the explanation of Altgeld's candidacy, and he had the active co-operation of the Democratic National Committee, which saw in Harrison's election the first success of a Croker-Harrison combination to control the next Democratic National Convention.

The election was of national interest, for Mayor Harrison is ambitious. His friends now talk of him as a Presidential candidate, as opposed to W. J. Bryan. One of the significant things bearing on the election was a telegram of congratulation from Richard Croker. It was the first that came to the Mayor, and caused him much pleasure. It said: "You have won a great victory. Extend sincere congratulations. Several other Tammany leaders also wired congratulations."

Out in Nebraska, in Bryan's town, a Republican was elected mayor by more than 800 majority. So altogether Bryan seems to have gotten a pretty black eye this week for the next Democratic Presidential nomination.

The question frequently asked, what will the conference do? What steps will it take to have the Democratic candidate for the Senate chosen by the Democratic voters of the State? It is the opinion that the conference will declare in favor of a Senatorial primary. There is a minority which thinks it will declare for a State convention.

Another question frequently asked is: Will the action of the conference be designed to affect the selection of the candidate for the Senate this fall? There seems a curious unanimity of opinion that it will not—Dispatch.

As the Dispatch earnestly backs up the call for the May 11th convention in Richmond, it surely ought to know its aims and objects, and be able to enlighten others. If "a curious unanimity of opinion is that it will not affect the selection of the candidate for the Senate this fall," and as there isn't a sign in the sky, or a cloud on the horizon of opposition to Daniel, is it a theory or a condition that is presented? On this subject the Index-Appeal of last Sunday says:

"According to the eternal fitness of things the convention, or mass meeting, or whatever it may be decided to call it, to change the mode of electing United States Senators should have been held yesterday, and not next May. It is said that on crossing a stream May will be the down that the water look out for May conventions with the ambitious aim to change the Constitution of the United States merely to remedy a local and transient grievance. They may lie down in water too deep for them ever to get up again."

There has been recently a great advance in the price of Quinine.

How the Democratic National Committee Seems to Have Blundered.

The Washington, D. C. Post says: "In the defeat of John P. Altgeld, the Democratic National Committee gets a well-deserved rebuke for its stupid blunder in meddling with a local and personal matter outside of its legitimate sphere of influence. Without any necessity or reasonable excuse, the committee saw fit to endorse the candidacy of Altgeld, who, as an independent candidate, was waging relentless war on the Democratic nominee. Outside of Ohio the immediate blunder and inevitable effect of this voluntary blunder was needlessly to discredit the party with all classes of citizens except that limited number who find in Altgeld a representative and champion of their principles and beliefs. In the city itself the effect is to reduce the regular Democratic vote—according to the committee's standard—to the pitiful 45,000, 385 polled for Altgeld in a total of 300,000. And this man, turned down, repudiated by the Democracy of his State, distressed by the conservative men of all parties to fill the place of a special adviser to the Democratic National Committee until the meeting of the National convention next year, and possibly throughout the Presidential campaign."

Miss Duvall Succeeds Mrs. Stuart. Stanton, Va., April 6.—Miss M. P. Duvall has been elected principal of the Virginia Female Institute, vice Mrs. J. E. Stuart, who resigned after a long and successful management of this school of the two dioceses of Virginia.

Baltimore Conference.

WEDNESDAY'S SESSION.

The Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, opened its one hundred and fifteenth annual session Wednesday morning in Mount Vernon Place Church, K and Ninth streets, Washington, D. C. The time was devoted to the reports of boards and committees on the progress of the church and its various enterprises during the year and new commissions and new boards were announced. Bishop John C. Granbery, of Ashland, Va., presided. Rev. James E. Armstrong was elected secretary. Rev. Edridge V. Register recorder and Rev. George T. Tyler, Asbury S. Cobb, Wm. M. Walters, statistical secretaries.

Rev. J. P. Stump has filled the position of assistant secretary during several conferences and is on the Board of Missions. Major W. S. Embrey is a member of the Joint Board of Finance, and Mr. P. V. D. Conway is on the Church Extension Board. Rev. W. D. Keene and Rev. I. W. Carter are members of the committee on Bible cause.

The reports of committees for the last conference year were read. The Mission Board reported an increase in their regular collections, with total receipts from all sources of \$1,077,388. They reported a mission opened in Korea and the addition of ten men to their forces in the foreign field and 2,177 members received on profession of faith. The growth of the Sunday-schools and Epworth League was noted. The number of church buildings has been increased from 82 to 100. Three dispensaries and one hospital in China, under the control of the board, are said to be in a flourishing condition.

The board of church extension shows a decrease in the contributions to the funds of the board. The payments to the general fund, on the assessment, amounted to \$37,500, and the additions to the loan funds to \$41,500. The general and conference boards relieved over four hundred churches to the amount of \$100,000, \$3,885 of which was given within the confines of the Baltimore Conference. Since the inception of the work 136 of the churches of the conference have received \$28,270 in donations and \$20,450 in loans.

The assessment upon the Baltimore Conference for next year has been fixed at \$4,000.

All the presiding elders reported their districts in good condition. Rev. J. H. Boyd, of the Washington district, said there had not been as many conversions as he had desired to see, or as many additions to membership, although there had been some good revivals in every charge.

THURSDAY'S SESSION.
On Thursday a letter was received from President McKinley naming Friday at 3 o'clock as the time he would receive the conference. It was agreed the members should meet in the church at 2 o'clock and proceed to the White House in a body. Rev. J. W. Duffey, pastor of the Mount Vernon Place Church, was chosen for the duty of introducing the various ministers to the chief executive.

The roll call showed a decided increase in the number of delegates to the conference. The crowd in the church was much larger than yesterday.

WOMEN'S MISSIONS.
A report from the Woman's Missionary Society was presented, read and referred to the board of missions. The report showed the total membership of the society to be 1,886, junior membership 925.

Frank A. Tyler, G. W. Boyle, W. H. Best and Harry M. Carter were elected deacons.

Alfred S. Harnberger, Wallace O. Tolbert, Henry Lawson, Ernest L. Woolf and Robert L. Eustler were given full membership in the conference.

Rev. H. M. Du Bose, secretary of the Epworth League board and editor of the Epworth League Era, was introduced and delivered an address. The membership of the national society has increased 30,000 during the year.

Rev. J. D. Hammond, secretary of the board of education of the conference, was introduced.

Dr. J. H. Pritchett, secretary of the general board of missions, addressed the conference.

ELDERS' CHOICES.
The following traveling preachers were elected elders: J. M. Anderson, F. A. Gaines, J. H. Dille, W. D. Keene, John B. Henry, C. D. Buller, Homer H. Sherman and D. L. Blake-more.

C. P. Smith of the Baltimore conference, was transferred to the Louisiana conference.

A Niece of the Vanderbilts Becomes the Bride of John Henry Hammond.

New York, April 6.—As the second of this year's conspicuous Easter weddings and the second within two days in which a member of the Vanderbilt family was concerned, yesterday's wedding of Miss Emily Vanderbilt Sloane to Mr. John Henry Hammond excited more than the general interest that always attends a brilliant church ceremony.

The ceremony took place at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal, Rev. Dr. Greer. In spite of the expressed desire for a quiet wedding, the approaches to the church were blocked by an eager crowd of spectators. So large did the throng become as the hour for the wedding approached that a considerable force of police had difficulty in keeping Madison Avenue clear for the carriages of the guests.

Guests to witness the ceremony were larger than the company which witnessed the home wedding of W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., a cousin of yesterday's bride, to Miss Virginia Fair.

A TOUCH OF ROMANCE.
Behind the marriage of Miss Sloane to Mr. Hammond is a touch of romance. The match was one of love, pure and simple. Indeed, it was a "case of love at first sight." The first meeting of this young couple was in an humble East Side mission, where Miss Sloane spent much of her spare time and considerable of her goodly income. Mr. Hammond had come there to do what he might to enlighten and brighten the struggling ones of the tenements.

Reply to Mr. R. G. Moncreu.

To The Free Lance:

There was an article in your issue of the 28th ult. signed by Mr. Richard G. Moncreu, starting out seemingly to respond to an article in a previous issue signed "Veritas."

As I did not contribute the article of Veritas I would take no notice of the first-named article by Mr. Moncreu had he confined himself to the issues raised by Veritas or made it a question of personal to me. I do not desire newspaper controversy with any one, but feel that in this case I must defend myself against an attack so unkind for to make Mr. Moncreu; but in doing so I shall try to make my language as charitable and free from invective as his seems full of venom and anger and error.

As to the charge Mr. Moncreu brings against me of "entering into an agreement with a Republican office holder in 1896 to try to keep down opposition to him if he in return would support me," it is plain from his article that Mr. Moncreu refers to Mr. J. W. Collawn, who was a warm personal friend of mine, but not political, so far as any mutuality of support was concerned. The further facts about this, as I have stated them, are these: Mr. Collawn was re-elected Sheriff in 1891 without opposition. In 1895 it was generally conceded at first that he would again have no opposition. He was a warm personal friend of mine and I did his, and though a Republican did not hesitate to announce that he would support me over all opposition. I of course would have been glad to see him re-elected Sheriff, and in so doing I decided to make no nominations. After this Mr. Gill thought of running and before announcing his candidacy took the precaution of ascertaining his probable support, and in so doing I learned that Mr. Collawn had made an acceptable Sheriff, was very popular and would be hard to beat, but if he decided to run, that he being a Democrat, I should vote for him. Mr. Collawn being advised by me of my course, Mr. Gill will say that I kept the faith with him, and Mr. Collawn would say the same, if living. Except my vote for Mr. Gill, I was neutral as he was except his vote for me. Mr. Gill and Mr. Moncreu both know that when election day came I acted fairly and honorably towards him, as I did towards Mr. Collawn and although now departed, I cannot refrain from saying that Mr. Collawn was as high-toned, upright, fearless and true a man and friend as I ever knew. And Mr. Gill knows full well that one principal cause of his success was the fact that he had no nominations in 1895 by either Democrats or Republicans and on this account he was able to make considerable cut in Mr. Collawn's Republican vote.

What Mr. Moncreu says about the horse, carriage and ribbons is true except the carriage was not a "fine" one, the same being about twenty years old, and the "Grand Rally" was not "my" rally nor a "Republican" barbecue, but a "Palmer and Buckner" barbecue gotten up and paid for by the Sound Money League of Virginia, and my business there was to introduce the speakers at the invitation of the League.

I am further accused in that article of political treachery. If I understand the meaning of treachery it is when a man professes to be loyal to one cause and in fact does or is the reverse. Of this I cannot be truthfully accused by anyone. The instance cited are the charges that in 1895 I beat down nominations, and in 1896 refused to support Mr. Bryan. I had no Democratic opponent in 1895, but yet preferred to run myself, and in 1896, though I could easily have gotten it, and so expressed myself to some members of the Committee. I did not vote for Mr. Bryan, nor have I ever pretended that I did. I was open and above-board in all my actions and did not pretend to be one way and working or voting the other. In the present contest, up to last court I had not approached a single member of the Democratic Committee by letter or otherwise for or against nominations. And if action on the matter had been taken then, it would have been of little consequence to me. Since then, however, though confined to the most of the time, I have argued for reasons satisfactory to myself against nominations. I do not understand that the advocacy of nominations or no nominations involves the question of treachery to party. If it does, then there are few Democrats in the County of any age or prominence who are not guilty of this sin, including many of the members of the present Democratic County Committee, and their predecessors for years. When a man in announcing his candidacy states that he is willing to abide the action of the properly constituted Democratic authority, he has done all that party advocates any action within the party that his judgment or interest may dictate to be best. My card published in the papers is a copy of the one used in 1891 with change of date only, and I submit to the action of this authority. This is all that could be required at my hands. The Democratic Committee has heretofore, both during the term of office of my predecessor, the late Mr. R. G. Moncreu, and the County's present efficient Judge, and while he was Chairman of the Democratic Committee, and during my term, failed to make nominations. If to thus act was not political treachery, then I do not see how it can be such now.

As a matter of party history, with full knowledge of the facts, I unhesitatingly affirm that for the past twenty years consecutively, with the possible exception of 1895, the Democratic Party has failed to put a full ticket in the field for County offices, and in one instance at least for the Legislature—a purely political office. In 1879, while Democratic was Chairman of the Judge Moncreu was Chairman of the Democratic Committee, in the Spring election he ran against Maj. R. O. Peartree for Commonwealth's Attorney with no nomination. In the Fall of the same year, S. J. H. White ran against J. M. Henderson for the Legislature with no nomination. In 1887 no nominations were made for Commissioners of the Revenue, District No. 2 against Thos. H. Blanton, the Republican. In 1891 no nominations were made against J. W. Collawn for Sheriff and Thos. H. Blanton for Commissioner of the Revenue, Republican incumbents. In 1895 no nominations were made at all. And even since 1895 and within the last 18 months, the Democratic Committee has declined to order a primary election.

My political and official record is an open book and people of Christian line have nothing to conceal from me. Respectfully,

April 6th, 1899. A. B. Chandler.

Warship Ordered to Costa Rica to Protect American Interests.

The Detroit now at La Guayra, has been ordered post haste to Costa Rica. The American business interests and residents there are now in trouble as a result of the insurrectionary movement now in progress. It is understood that the insurgents are levying forced loans on them besides collecting exorbitant and double duties on imports, and the State Department has been appealed to, with the result above noted.

The department has also acted vigorously in the interests of the American residents at Bluefields. The United States diplomatic representative at Bluefields has been instructed to lodge an energetic protest with the Nicaraguan government against the arbitrary and extortionate action of Gen. Torres, and this will be followed up by more substantial action if the protest is disregarded.

THE FALLS CHURCH TRAGEDY.

Result of Inquest New Will Brought to Light.

Falls Church, Va., April 5.—The coroner's inquest over the bodies of W. R. Turner and wife convened again this morning. George W. Mankin and J. S. Riley testified as to the finding of the bodies. Drs. Padelev and Quick stated that the bodies were found in an almost frozen condition, and in their opinion both Turner and his wife had been dead ten days or more, and further, that death was instantaneous. Mrs. J. E. Matheny testified that Mrs. Turner had called to see her on Thursday, March 23; that she had seen her later the same day, through the window. The next morning she noticed the blinds closed and had her servant knock to see if any one was at home. No one answered the knock.

Dr. L. E. Gott, the family physician, stated that he feared Mr. Turner's death by his own hand, as the deceased suffered from melancholia with suicidal intent. He was surprised to learn that he had killed his wife, but knew he was very fond of her, and supposed he did not want to die and leave her. Rev. D. L. Rathburn, pastor of the Presbyterian church, testified that at the request of friends he spoke to and cautioned Mrs. Turner on the condition of her husband's mind on March 21, and Mrs. Turner was greatly affected, and was very solicitous regarding her husband's health. Another will has been discovered, dated February 25, 1896, which left all the property of Mr. Turner to his wife. The will executed on March 11 leaves half to his brother, Jacob Y. Turner, and half to his wife's heirs, in the case of her death before him. The question is raised as to whether the condition of the mind of the deceased will invalidate the latter document.

The verdict rendered by the jury is that Mrs. Turner came to her death on March 23, between the hours of 7 p. m. and 12 p. m., by a pistol shot fired by her husband, and that he then blew out his own brains.

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From the Philippines.

Manila, April 6. Col. Smith, governor of the Island of Negros, reports that a number of bandits, headed by Papiasio, attempted a rebellion March 27, and killed several officials. He also captured other officials and issued a proclamation calling upon the natives to rise and exterminate the Americans and Spaniards.

Maj. Sims and two companies of the California regiment were detached by water to the scene of the disturbance, and Col. Duboce and two other companies of troops were sent overland. April 2 This forced march twelve miles and captured Labaid, the headquarters of the bandits, and destroyed the town. The troops also captured thirty-five prisoners and scattered Papiasio's forces.

LEVEL IN HOSTILITIES.

There has been a week's respite in the hostilities around Manila, in order to allow the Filipinos to digest the proclamation of the U. S. commission. The rebels remain remarkably quiet. The sharpshooters of Lawton's line have borrowed the Filipino tactics and are harassing the rebels at night, picking off some of them nightly.

In Malolos business is going on, preparations are being made to establish a permanent camp for the troops there and the soldiers are cleaning the city.

CHARLOTTE SHELLS DAPUAN.

Manila, April 6.—The U. S. cruiser Charlotte, which has been cruising along the west coast of Luzon, to the north, sent a boat in shore near Dagupan last Saturday to make soundings. The rebels opened fire, wounding a U. S. officer.

The cruiser thereupon bombarded the town, the insurgents evacuating it.

Vice President Hobart.

The Washington, D. C. Star of Thursday says: "Vice President Hobart is confined to his home on Lafayette square, and his physicians find that his illness is more stubborn than at first anticipated. Mr. Hobart's condition was worse yesterday than at any time since his return from Thomsville. He did not have a restful night, and this morning was not feeling improved over yesterday. His physicians visit him two and three times a day. Mr. Hobart suffers principally from acute indigestion, although still weak from an attack of grip."

Senator John W. Daniel has consented to act as one of the judges at the annual contest of the Inter-State Oratorical Association, which takes place at the University of Virginia on 17th of May, 1899.

Suffered 20 Years.



Mrs. MARY LEWIS, wife of a prominent farmer, and well known by all old residents near Belmont, N. Y., writes: "For twenty-seven years I had been a constant sufferer from nervous prostration, and paid large sums of money for doctors and advertised remedies without benefit. Three years ago my condition was alarming; the least noise would startle and unnerve me. I was unable to sleep, had a number of sinking spells and slowly grew worse. I began using Dr. Miles' Restorative Nerve and Liver Pills. At first the medicine seemed to have no effect, but after taking a few bottles I began to notice a change; I rested better at night, my appetite began to improve and I rapidly grew better, until now I am as nearly restored to health as one of my age may expect. God bless Dr. Miles' Nervine."

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President's Wife Inherits Valuable Rights in Mineral Lands.

Canton, Ohio, April 6.—Mrs. McKinley, wife of the President, her sisters and the heirs of the late George D. Saxton, own the oil and mineral rights in 200 acres of land in the vicinity of the Seico oil field. They did not know it until informed by a man who wanted to lease. In looking up an abstract he found that the present owner only has title to the surface.

James Saxton, father of Mrs. McKinley, sold it over thirty years ago, and reserved the mineral and ceder the surface rights. A contract was made with the Saxton heirs taking a test well and if oil is found to operate under royalties to the heirs.

Spanish-American Items.
A boat from the cruiser Charleston while making soundings near Dagupan Luzon, was fired upon. The cruiser returned the fire and bombarded the town which was evacuated.

It is reported in Manila that Antonio Luna has supplanted Aguinaldo as leader of the Filipinos. The American losses in the Philippines from February 4 to April 4 were: killed, 184; wounded, 926.

It is expected that the distribution of the \$3,000,000 to the Cuban army will begin within two weeks. General Henry, Military Governor of Porto Rico, has given orders to enlist a battalion of native Porto Ricans for the United States army.

American Representatives at the Disarmament Congress.

The Secretary of State has announced the persons selected to represent the United States at the Czar's disarmament conference, to be held at The Hague in the latter part of May. They are: A. D. White, U. S. ambassador to Berlin; Stanford Newell, U. S. minister to The Hague; Seth Low, president of Columbia University, New York; Capt. William Crozier, U. S. ordnance department; Capt. A. T. Mahan, U. S. navy, retired; Frederick Hollis, of New York, secretary.

E. V. Brewster, who is managing the Chicago platform, Jefferson dinner to be given in New York city, has received the following telegram from Wm. J. Bryan: Lincoln, Neb., April 6th. Eugene V. Brewster, Brooklyn, N. Y.: Will attend dinner April 15. All speakers should be supporters of Chicago platform.

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